

GNA
NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 1-0285
WAYNE COREY/BANGKOK

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ANTI-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE IN LAOS

ANNCR:

LAOS HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE CAUSING SOME DIFFICULTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT SAYS ALL AVAILABLE FORCES MUST BE USED TO ELIMINATE THEM. WAYNE COREY HAD THIS BACKGROUND REPORT FROM BANGKOK:

VOICE:

DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THERE HAVE BEEN INCREASING REPORTS OF RESISTANCE TO THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OF LAOS. DIPLOMATS IN VIENTIANE AND BANGKOK SAY THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES, CONSISTING OF FORMER ROYAL LAO ARMY SOLDIERS AND MEO TRIBESMEN, PROBABLY CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO CAUSE ANY REALLY SERIOUS TROUBLE. BUT THEY SAY THEY CAN LAUNCH HIT AND RUN ATTACKS AND IMPEDE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IN A FEW LIMITED AREAS, RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE CONSTANT AND EFFECTIVE SECURITY.

VIENTIANE RADIO, IN AN EDITORIAL BROADCAST ON TUESDAY, CONFIRMED THAT WHAT IT CALLED ENEMIES OF THE NEW SYSTEM," ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SLOWING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMS. IT CLAIMS THAT THE INSURGENTS ARE RECEIVING FOREIGN SUPPORT, HAVE CAUSED SOME DIFFICULTIES AND DAMAGE AND MUST BE COMPLETELY WIPED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALL AVAILABLE FORCES, VIENTIANE SAYS, MUST BE USED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THEM.

THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAS REFERRED TO RESISTANCE ACTIVITY BEFORE. BUT THE LATEST RADIO BROADCAST FOLLOWS REPORTS THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES BLEW UP A BRIDGE BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND PAKSANE, ON HIGHWAY THIRTEEN, THE IMPORTANT ROAD LEADING TO THE SOUTH. IN SOUTHERN LAOS ITSELF, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY IN CHAMPASSAK PROVINCE. SIMILAR ACTIVITY HAS BEEN REPORTED NORTH OF VIENTIANE AS WELL.

THAI OFFICIALS SAY SEVERAL HUNDRED SOLDIERS OF THE FORMER LAO ARMY HAVE BEEN LAUNCHING HIT AND RUN ATTACKS FROM THAILAND ACROSS THE BORDER INTO LAOS. BUT THEY SAY THAI SECURITY FORCES HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO STOP THEM BECAUSE THEY HIDE IN SMALL GROUPS IN THICK JUNGLE AREAS. AT THE SAME TIME, RE-EDUCATION SEMINARS TAUGHT BY THE PATHET LAO ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE ENCOUNTERED SOME TROUBLE. THE LAO PEOPLE AT THESE SEMINARS APPARENTLY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO STUDY IDEOLOGY SERIOUSLY. AND SOME SEMINARS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AFTER INNOCENT BUT EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS WERE ASKED.

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